

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /119 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7198

INFO AMEMBASY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSIN NATO

USMISSION UN

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 778

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: PROVOCATIVE ARTICLES IN LEFTIST AND PRO- GRIVAS  
PAPERS CAUSE GOVT TO THREATEN CRACKDOWN

BEGIN SUMMARY: LEFTIST TA NEA AND PRO GRIVAS ETHNIKI  
AND MESIMVRINI HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS INDULGED IN CRESCENDO OF  
MUTUAL ACCUSATION, PROPAGANDA AND OUTRIGHT LIES, LEADING  
ATTORNEY GEN TO WARN THAT PRESS LAWS WILL IN FUTURE BE  
STRICTLY APPLIED. ARTICLE THAT APPARENTLY PRECIPITATED GOVT  
ACTION WAS TA NEA ATTACK ON NATIONAL GUARD. IN PAST TWO DAYS  
POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER ARTICLES IN  
TA NEA AND MESIMVRINI HAVE VIOLATED LAW. END SUMM.

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF INCREASINGLY INCENDIARY ARTICLES  
IN EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT WING PAPERS ATTORNEY GEN  
APRIL 5 PUBLICLY WARNED THAT LIBEL AND SLANDER LAWS WOULD  
HENCEFORTH BE STRICTLY APPLIED. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED  
CRIMINAL CODE PROVISIONS RELATING TO A) ACTIONS CALCULATED  
DISTURB ORDER IN NATIONAL GUARD, B) MALICIOUS AND PUBLIC  
INSULT OF NATIONAL GUARD AND C) PUBLICATION OF FALSE NEWS  
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LIKELY TO IMPAIR PUBLIC ORDER.

2. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF GOVT WARNING WAS CLEARLY ARTICLE THAT APPEARED APRIL 5 IN LEFTIST MP VASSOS LYSSARIDES TA NEA VEHEMENTLY ATTACKING NATIONAL GUARD. TANEA ACCUSED GUARD OF SUPPORTING GRIVAS AND BISHOPS AND ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE MAKARIOS. SPECIFICALLY IT CHARGED GUARD OF BEING AWARE OF IF NOT BEHIND MARCH 1970 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON ARCHBISHOP.

3. ASKED ABOUT TA NEA ARTICLE, GOVT PIO CONDEMNED ITS PUBLICATION, SAYING IT COULD ONLY CAUSE SERIOUS HARM " WHEN RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP ARE EXCWMLENT AND RELATIONS BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA HAVE BEEN FULLY RESTORED." AT SAMEBIME PIO DENIED ALLEGATION IN PRO GRIVAS ETHNIKI THAT GREEK GOVT HAD ASKED ARCHBISHOP TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM LYSSARIDES. IN ANY EVENT PIO ADDED ARCHBISHOP DID NOT ALIGN HIMSELF WITH ACTIONS OR VIEWS OF ANY POLITICAL LEADER AND CONSEQUENTLY COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. ( GREEK EMB CONFIRMS TO US THT IT MADE NO SPECIAL APPROACH TO MAKARIOS ON LYSSARIDES, BUT ADDS THAT ARCH-BISHOP IS FULLY AWARE OF GREEK GOVT VIEWS ABOUT HIM.)

4. WHILE TA NEA ATTACK ON NATIONAL GUARD PRECIPITATED GOVT CRACKDOWN, ATTORNEY GENERAL ORDERED POLICE TO INVESTIGATE TWO OTHER ARTICLES. FIRST WAS APRIL 5 STORY IN MESIMVRINI THAT NATIONAL GUARD HAD DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE NEWLY APPOINTED COMMANDER OF AUX POLICE PANTAZIS. ( PANTAZIS OBVIOUSLY MUST LEAVE GUARD, BUT WE KNOW OF NO PROBLEM WITH GREEKS.) GROUND FOR INVESTIGATION WAS PUBLICATION OF FALSE NEWS. SECOND WAS APR 6 REPORT IN TA NEA ( INCIDENTALLY ALSO CARRIED IN PRO GOVT PHILELFTHEROS) GIVIOCSNAMES OF MEN POLICE ARE ALLEGEDLY SEEKING IN LARNACA MURDER CASE ( SEPTEL). POLICE WERE INSTRUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OFFENSE HAD BEEN COMMITTED LIKELY TO AFFECT POLICE INVESTIGATION OF MURDER.

5. COMMENT: LYSSARIDES MAIN OBJECT IN PUBLISHING NAT GUARD ACCUSATIONS WAS DOUBTLESS TO SOUR IMPROVING GOG- GOC RELATIONS. ALL EYES WERE ON GOVT TO SEE WHETHER MAKARIOS WOULD ACT TO RESTRAIN HIS UNRULY SUPPORTER, LYSSARIDES. GOVT MOVED WITH UNUSUAL DETERMINATION AND SWIFTNESS TO FRUSTRATE TA NEAS PROMIS  
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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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